

KENTUCKY PERIODIC WATERFOWL INVENTORY

Conducted 6 & 7 January 2014

Lower Ohio River & Western Coalfield

Western Kentucky - Purchase Region

Lakes portion flown on 7 January. All other areas flown on 6 January.

Surveyed by Pat Hahs

	Dabblers	Divers	Total Ducks	Canada geese	White-fronted geese	Snows/Blues	Coots	Eagles
Bayou De Chien	0	0	0					
Obion Creek	0	0	0					
Mississippi River	175	0	175					
Mayfield Creek	0	0	0					
Reelfoot NWR	0	1700	1700					
Ballard	53350	0	53350	370	750	3500		
Boatwright WMA	13220	100	13320					
Ohio R. (Wickliffe - Paducah)	275	3025	3300					
Ohio R. (Paducah - Golconda)	532	10	542	475				
Barkley Lake (North of 68)	3975	0	3975	450				
Barkley Lake (South of 68)	15	535	550	20				
Duck Island	225	0	225					8
Kentucky Lake	1380	0	1380	280			3200	
Kaler Bottoms	0	0	0					
Birdsville Island	2612	0	2612					
Doug Travis WMA	280	0	280					
Obion Creek (Travis Slough tract)	0		0					
Obion Creek (L.E. Schaaf tract)	0		0					
Totals	76039	5370	81409	1595	750	3500	3200	8
	Dabblers	Divers	Total Ducks	Canada geese	White-fronted	Snows/Blues	Coots	Eagles

Near historic low temperatures at the time of survey, though mild temperatures immediately prior to the survey date.

Ice was not as dominating as expected since bitter cold had only been in place for a day or two. Most small/protected areas were frozen, though. Backs of major bays on the lakes were frozen.

Very few hunters braving the bitter cold.

Rough River – Yellowbank

Central and Eastern Kentucky

Flown by Rocky Pritchert & John Brunjes

	Dabblers	Divers	Total Ducks	Canada geese	White-Fronted geese	Snows/Blues	Coots	Eagles
Herrington	43	0	43	350	0	0	0	0
Cedar Creek	403	20	423	8	0	0	400	0
Cumberland	10	0	10	40	0	0	0	0
Dale Hollow	1793	1072	2865	69	0	0	35	1
Barren R.	286	4	290	12	0	0	100	0
Green R.	407	110	517		0	0	0	7
Taylorsville	480	0	480	60	0	0	0	0
Central OH R.	4091	361	4452	12633	0	0	172	2
Blue Grass	325	25	350	375	0	0	0	0
Licking River South	60	25	85	111	0	0	0	0
Cave Run Lake	2293	244	2537	1550	0	10	0	0
Grayson Lake	45	2	47	45	0	1	0	0
Yatesville Lake	20	0	20	80	0	0	0	0
Ohio River-Ashland to Scioto R.	372	45	417	150	0	8	0	0
Scioto River	1095	25	1120	300	0	0	0	0
Ohio River (Scioto R. to Licking R.)	4805	590	5395	2475	0	1	0	0
Licking River North			0					
Campbell County Lake			0					
Kincade Lake			0					
Totals	16528	2523	19051	18258	0	20	707	10
	Dabblers	Divers	Total Ducks	Canada geese	White-fronted	Snows/Blues	Coots	Eagles

Comments by Rocky Pritchert

Ponds, shallow water areas and embayments frozen.

A strong cold front move through the state on the first weekend of January. Plunging temperatures to the lowest observed (-3 F) in the last 10 years. About 1 - 2 inches of snow fell in south-central and western Kentucky. Very little snow in the north-central part of the state

This last front forced birds to seek and concentrate on areas with open water. Survey results show this was the case. Both duck and Canada goose numbers were over 300% higher than observed during the 2013 mid-winter count. Canada goose numbers observed on the Ohio River are the highest on record.

Duck and goose season are open. Observed hunters on Cedar Creek, Dale Hollow and the Ohio River.

Crop harvest 100% complete on private lands. All MSU's flooded to or near capacity but frozen.

Comments by John Brunjes

This is the report for the mid-winter waterfowl survey for north-eastern Kentucky conducted on Jan 7, 2014. The flight was delayed due to heavy winds for one day. The flight was conducted in clear skies with moderate West winds. Temperatures were frigid with temperatures below zero degrees in the morning and warmed up 12 degrees during the day. Temperatures have been normal for most of this hunting season until the current cold blast.

This season's rainfall has been above average and water was available across the landscape. Shallow water was frozen. Large lakes were partially frozen with most fingers frozen and main parts of the lake were open. The Ohio River was mostly free of ice but had numerous floating chunks and the Scioto and Licking had lots of ice. Cave Run Lake was at winter pool levels. The Shallow flats area was exposed.

The Ohio River was at normal levels. The Northern Licking River, Campbell County Lake and Kincade Lake were not surveyed due to rough conditions. Waterfowl numbers were well above average for this time of year. This was one of the highest counts ever for this survey for ducks and geese. The most abundant dabbling duck was mallards (6,692). Black duck (1,480) was the second most abundant puddle duck followed by Gadwall (650) with no other dabbling ducks being observed in large numbers. The normal concentrations of Gadwall were not present on Cave Run Lake. Divers were widely scattered. Canvasback (415) and Scaup (225) were the most abundant divers. There were 4 scoters and 2 long-tailed ducks seen on the Ohio River. Canada goose numbers were above average with 5,106 being observed.

I hope everyone had a great holiday season and it looks like 2014 is starting out well! As always, with cold temperatures, please be careful while spending time around water in the great outdoors!!!